

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 13700 130947Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 NSC-05 INR-05
HA-02 EB-04 L-01 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
/053 W

-----104718 131040Z /16

P 130942Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3990
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 13700

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, BC, RH
SUBJECT: ICRC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN IN BOTSWANA
REFUGEE CAMPS

REF: STATE 226447

1. MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED BOTSWANA REFUGEE CAMP
SITUATION SEPTEMBER 12 WITH UK MISSION OFFICERS
MAC INNES AND SNOXELL.
2. UK OFFICERS SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED IN-
STRUCTIONS FROM LONDON TO APPROACH UNHCR AND ICRC OFFIC-
IALLY ON THE MATTER, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD TAKEN INFORMAL
SOUNDINGS AT BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. SNOXELL REPORTED THAT
THE ICRC (MRS. EGGER) THOUGHT THAT A FORMAL APPROACH
MIGHT BE HELPFUL. THE RESPONSE FROM THE UNHCR WAS NON-
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COMMITTAL.

3. MAC INNES EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT HE WELCOMED A
JOINT APPROACH WITH THE USG. HE CAUTIONED HOWEVER THAT
THE BRITISH READING OF THE SITUATION IN THE BOTSWANA
CAMPS SEEMED TO LIMIT THE CHANCES OF AN EFFECTIVE SURVEY
TO THE DUKWE CAMP. HE SAID THE FRANCISTOWN AND SELEBI-

PIKWE CAMPS WERE SO COMPLETELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF ZAPU THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY OF THE CHILDREN'S WISHES WITHOUT A MAJOR CONFRONTATION IF THE SURVEY WERE OPPOSED BY ZAPU. HE DOUBTED WHETHER HMG OR THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT WANTED TO RISK SUCH A CONFRONTATION AT THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO MAC INNES, THE FCO WOULD PROBABLY BE INCLINED TO LIMIT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE REPRESENTATION TO THE DUKWE CAMP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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